

Desiderio Quina House
206 South Alcaniz Street
Pensacola
Escambia County
Florida

HABS No. FLA-196

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

DESIDERIO QUINA HOUSE

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Location: 206 South Alcaniz Street, Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida. The house is located on the east side of the street, south of East Intendencia Street.

Present Owner and Occupant: Pensacola Historic Preservation Society

Present Use: House museum

Statement of Significance: This structure is an excellent example of a raised wood frame cottage typical of the Gulf of Mexico coast. It utilizes cross ventilation, large window openings and porches to exploit prevailing climatic characteristics.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The house is located on the original Lot 143 of Pensacola as surveyed by Vincente S. Pintado, a Spanish officer, in 1813. The lot fronted (123'-4") originally on Intendencia Street, and it ran 171'-9" on Alcaniz Street.

Peter Reggio, Master of the schooner, Goleta Favorita, and the earliest known owner of the lot, sold it to Catherine Eber Cubillos, widow of Juan Ballestre y Jose Cubillos, a minor Spanish official, in March of 1813. Madame Cubillos divided the lot and sold the corner property (86'-5" on Alcaniz and 123'-4" on Intendencia) to John M. Flinn on March 2, 1821, for \$600.

Flinn died, probably in 1826, leaving no administrators for his estate. Thus, under territorial law, the county clerk took charge of the property and sold the corner section of Lot 143 for \$60 to Benjamin D. Wright. Within a few weeks after he acquired the property, he sold it to Desiderio Quina for \$110 on August 20, 1827.

The south end of the lot, then jointly owned by Madame Cubillos, Catherine Guerra, and Joseph Maura, was sold on June 15, 1821, for \$656 to Mary Garcia Tonelier Sousa. Sousa sold the property on October 29, 1821, for \$700 to Desiderio Quina.

Quina sold the back portion of Lot 143 to his brother-in-law, Francisco Bobè, a shoemaker. After Quina's death, probably late in 1834 or early in 1835, his widow settled the property lines of the lot with Francis and Marie Touard on July 15, 1835. The Quina children sold the property, presumably their mother's estate, on March 20, 1867, for \$4000 to Gamaliel Bell. The Bell family, who were Negroes, occupied the Quina house for only a short time and appear to have rented it to James E. Bell, a Negro laborer. On August 30, 1886, Gamaliel Bell and his wife, Sarah, sold their property for \$1000 to Lizzie E. Daniels for a three year mortgage. Upon the death of Bell in 1890, the property was sold on April 7, 1890, to David Perry for \$2050, who sold it to William Fisher on July 26, 1890, for the same amount.

William Fisher sold the house and property to Abraham Malino in November of 1920. Malino and his wife, Rosie, sold it to Frank L. and Nolia Pear on March 14, 1921, for \$1000. In 1930 Nolia Pear, then a widow, sold the property to Henry G. and Georgie E. Brehme. Juanita Junkin, for the Brehme Estate, sold the house and lot on September 12, 1966, to the Pensacola Historic Preservation Society for \$5300.

2. Date of erection: It is assumed that the house was built by Desiderio Quina soon after he purchased the property in 1821.
 3. Architect: Unknown
 4. Original plans and construction information: None known
 5. Alterations and additions: It appears that the house and the back kitchen addition have been little altered since its construction, except for concessions to modern living including plumbing and electricity.
 6. Important old views: None known
- B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure: Benjamin D. Wright, who owned the corner property in 1827, was a young Pennsylvanian who had arrived in Pensacola late in 1823 to become a law partner of Richard Keith Call. Wright became one of the leading political personalities in Florida during the territorial period. He was a member of the famed "Nucleus," the group of Andrew Jackson's Florida associates which administered the public land system and dispensed patronage. Wright was named United States District Attorney at Pensacola in 1824, and in the same year he was also appointed to the Florida Legislative Council. He maintained close relations

with the Pensacola city officials, and for more than a decade he was generally thought to be the official spokesman of those officers. In 1834 Wright became editor of the Pensacola Gazette, one of the most influential newspapers in Florida. 17-PENSA 9-

Joseph Maura, one of the co-owners of the south end of Lot 143 in 1821, was a Pensacolan whose name appears on several petitions including one supporting the appointment of William King as first American Governor of West Florida. Maura served as a petit juror at the United States Superior Court (Pensacola) in 1823.

Domingo Garcia Sousa, whose wife, Mary Garcia Tonelier, purchased the south end of Lot 143 in 1821, was Spanish Governor Callava's sub-lieutenant. Sousa was a Canary Islander who had served as a sergeant in both the Louisiana Infantry and the Militia of New Orleans. Part of Sousa's responsibility was supervising the activities of the prisoners in the calaboza directly across Alcaniz Street from Lot 143. Whether the Sousas planned to build a house on the property is very problematical as Andrew Jackson had already assumed command in Pensacola, and Florida had been formally transferred to American control.

Desiderio Quina, whose name is associated with the house, was born in Genoa, Italy, in 1775. The date of his arrival in Florida is unknown, though he may have been employed by the Panton & Leslie firm at one of its middle Florida stores. Quina did sign a statement in 1822 for the United States Land Commissioners in support of the claim of John Forbes & Co. for a tract of land west of the Apalachicola River. Quina's statement presents information on that which was probably not available to anyone who was not associated with Forbes or its predecessor, Panton & Leslie Co. Quina secured Lot 338 on Intendencia Street in July of 1812, and within two years there was a house on that property. In 1820 Quina identified himself in the census as a storekeeper. He had married a Pensacolan, Margarita Bobè, who was born in 1796. They had six children, Marcia, Margarita, Desiderio, Jr., Constantine, Marceline, and Carlos.

Desiderio Quina, Jr., born February 5, 1817 and died October 13, 1891, was said to have had a "successful medical practice" according to his obituary which also listed his several children and noted his brothers, Gomez, Constantine, and Charles as well as a sister, Lola.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: Deed Books, Clerk of Courts Office, Escambia County Court House, Pensacola, Florida.

2. Secondary and published sources: None known

Prepared by Samuel Proctor
1969

PART 11. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement: This building is somewhat rectangular in plan and is a composite of two wood frame structures abutting at the long dimension. The front section consists of two rooms with a loft. A one room kitchen is at the rear. The condition of the fabric is good with much original fabric having survived minor modifications.
- B. Description of Exterior:
1. Overall dimensions: The house is $30' - 4\frac{1}{2}"$ x $46' - 7\frac{1}{2}"$ with the short dimension parallelling the street. The rear wing forms an ell.
 2. Foundations: The structure is supported on brick piers constructed from $2\frac{1}{2}"$ x 4" x 9", average, red brick with $\frac{3}{4}"$ mortar joints.
 3. Wall construction, finish and color: The braced wood frame structure is sheathed in horizontal clapboarding with an exposure of 3" to 5", $3\frac{1}{4}"$, average; flush siding is used behind the west porch; and later novelty siding is also evident. The exterior is painted white. Some square-head, cut nails are visible.
 4. Structural system: The wood frame platform system has 3" x $7\frac{3}{4}"$ floor joists notched to bear on $7\frac{3}{4}"$ square beams running the long dimension of the building. The porch floor joists, parallelling the long dimension, bear on beams notched into the house beams. There is some mortise and tenon joinery secured with wooden pins. 4" square wood studs are spaced 14" to 20" on center and are straight and circular sawn. The roof rafters extend beyond the porch facias and are cut in a cyma reversa profile.
 5. Porches: There were inset porches at both the east and west elevations, recessed under the gable roof. While the east porch has been enclosed, the west porch (the street facade) remains open and has a wood slat ceiling and a gray painted wood floor. The eaves of the porch are supported on solid wood, turned and tapered columns 7" to 8" in diameter. The columns, with their pseudo-Tuscan capitals and wood block bases, are set with round hand

rails notched into the columns and supported on 3/4" square balusters which are notched over beveled bottom rails.

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Masonry steps at the west porch are constructed of cement over brick and are flanked by square, capped newels which receive the porch railings. At the rear entrance are rough wood steps.

6. Chimneys: A red brick chimney, located on the ridge of the front, west structure, has two flues, corbelled brick cap courses, and angular cowls of brick and cement. The kitchen chimney, above the east eave of the rear structure, is perforated to receive a stove pipe thimble.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Two doorways are located between the porch and the principal rooms. Traditional four-panel doors which swing in are located in each opening. The trim is simple and has rebates for hinges of an outswinging louvered or screened door per opening.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The windows typically have six-over-six light double hung sash with narrow muntins, stiles and rails glazed with old glass. Each west and attic gable window opening is hung with a pair of adjustable louvered blinds. Pintle hinge fragments exist in other principal openings. Six-over-four light sash and four-light sash are singly hung in the kitchen and hallway window openings.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape and covering: The roofs of the main structure and the kitchen wing are gabled and parallel one another forming a valley. They are roofed with composition shingles over wood shingles. Fragments of galvanized metal gutters, scuppers, leaders and downspouts exist.
 - b. Cornice and eaves: The west eaves are not boxed and have the exposed cyma reversa rafter ends infilled with fascia boards. The verges of the main gable roof are boxed, while the verges of the kitchen gables are plain.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: Access is from the west porch into two principal rooms which are separated by the chimney

breast and a partition with a connecting doorway. Doorways from the principal rooms, opposite the front doors, open into the hallway, formerly the east porch, and provide access to a bathroom, the loft stairway, and the kitchen. HABS
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- b. Loft: This space is divided by the chimney and is partitioned, though the connecting doorway does not have a door. There is access to the attic space over the kitchen. 17-PENSA
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2. Stairway: The quarter turn stairway with winders has average 9" risers and 10" treads and is enclosed. The understair soffit is sheathed in flush boarding. The enclosure is constructed from vertical siding, 1" x 5", fabricated with square head, cut nails.
 3. Flooring: The floors are random width (average: 1" x 5") boards which are painted on the first floor and unpainted in the garret bedroom.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are plaster with hair binder on milled wood lath, painted a variety of tints and set with $7\frac{1}{4}$ " baseboards. There is clapboard siding, 4" to 5" exposed, in the hallway along with miscellaneous width vertical wood siding. The ceilings are finished with narrow boards.
 5. Doorways and doors: Four-panel wood doors are hung in frames with simple wood trim having a moulded backband. There are several miscellaneous board and batten doors.
 6. Decorative features: Two identical fireplaces have simple classical wood mantelpieces with plain pilasters supporting the frieze board and mantelshelf, cement facias and cement hearths over wooden boards and sleepers. There are cast iron fronts with arched openings. The fireboxes have firebrick backs.
 7. Notable hardware: The doors have cast iron surface box locks with porcelain knobs and cast iron keepers. There are pintles for shutter hinges screwed into the frames of the west windows.
 8. Mechanical equipment: None of importance
- D. Site and Surroundings: This structure faces west on Alcaniz Street and is located six feet from the inside edge of the concrete sidewalk. There is a stucco over brick curb, a modern wood picket fence and a modern concrete driveway at the south. A one story brick commercial building, an apothecary, is located

immediately to the north. There are no outbuildings. To the south are several other raised cottages of similar age and architectural characteristics, but in various stages of dis- repair. HABS FLA 17-PENSA 9-

Prepared by F. Blair Reeves, AIA
HABS--Pensacola
June 12, 1968

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project, sponsored by the Pensacola Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission, now known as the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board of Trustees, in cooperation with the Historic American Buildings Survey, was recorded during the summer of 1968 in Pensacola under the direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS; Professor F. Blair Reeves, AIA (University of Florida), Project Supervisor; and Student Assistant Architects John O. Crosby (University of Florida), David L. Van de Ven, Jr. (Texas Technological College), and Edward Bondi, Jr. (University of Florida). The historical information was prepared by Professor Samuel Proctor (University of Florida), by Assistant Historian Linda V. Ellsworth (Historic Pensacola Preservation Board), and by Rodd L. Wheaton (Architect, HABS) who edited all the data in 1972.

Addendum to

HABS No. FL-196

Desiderio Quina House
Seville Square Historic District
206 South Alcaniz Street
Pensacola
Escambia County
Florida

as recorded in 1968 and 1972

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PHOTOGRAPHS

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243